

IN THE CLAIMS:

**1.-16. (Canceled)**

**17. (Previously Presented)** An impeller for a cooling water pump of an internal combustion engine, comprising a hub, a cover disk which is disposed on an intake side of the impeller and is provided with a central opening for sucking in a conveyed medium, and a plurality of blades which are joined integrally with the cover disk and are provided with an inner section located in the region of the central opening and an outer section located in the region of the cover disk, said impeller being provided with a completely open configuration on a pressure side of the impeller opposite the cover disk and the blades are shaped at least in said inner section with a three-dimensional curvature and in said outer section with a substantially two-dimensional curvature, wherein said axial projection is provided on the cover disk in the region of the central opening, which projection projects in the direction of the intake side, and wherein one blade on the intake side is flush with a front edge of the axial projection.

**18. (Currently Amended)** An impeller according to claim

17, wherein the blades are free from coverings or undercuts.

**19. (Previously Presented)** An impeller according to claim 17, wherein the blades are curved in a two-dimensional manner in the region of the cover disk and are rectangular to the plane of the cover disk.

20.-21. **(Canceled)**.

22. **(Previously Presented)** An impeller according to claim 17, wherein the cover disk is rounded off in the region of the central opening.

23. **(Previously Presented)** An impeller according to claim 17, wherein the blades are provided at least in the outer section on the pressure side with a face surface which is situated in a plane perpendicular to the axis of the impeller.

24. **(Previously Presented)** An impeller according to claim 17, wherein the blades have a convex surface which converges smoothly from the inner section to the outer section.

25. **(Previously Presented)** An impeller according to claim 17, wherein the blades comprise a concave surface which converges with an edge from the inner section to the outer section.

26. **(Previously Presented)** An impeller according to claim 17, wherein the blades have in the outer section a substantially rectangular cross section.

27. **(Previously Presented)** An impeller according to claim 17, wherein the blades in the outer section have at least partly a trapezoidal cross section.

28. **(Previously Presented)** An impeller according to claim 17, wherein the impeller comprises radial discharge openings.

29. **(Previously Presented)** An impeller according to claim 17, wherein the diameter of the opening of the cover disk corresponds to 30% to 70% of the diameter of the impeller.

30. **(Previously Presented)** A pump for an internal combustion engine, with a bearing in which a pump shaft is held rotatably which passes through a wall of a housing and to which is fastened an impeller with axial an intake opening on the side of the housing wall opposite of the bearing and with radial discharge, said impeller comprising a hub, a cover disk which is disposed on an intake side of the impeller and is provided with a central opening for sucking in a conveyed medium and a projection which extends from the intake side, and a plurality of blades which are joined integrally with the cover disk on the intake side and are provided with an inner section located in the region of the central opening and an outer section located in the region of the cover disk, said impeller being further provided with a completely open configuration on a pressure side of the impeller opposite the cover disk and blades are shaped at least in said inner section with a three-dimensional curvature and in said outer section with a substantially two-dimensional curvature, one of said blades being flush on the intake side with a front edge of the axial projection.

31. **(Previously Presented)** A pump according to claim 30, wherein an axial face seal for sealing the pump shaft is provided in the wall of the housing, which seal is situated openly in the flow of the conveyed medium.

32. **(Previously Presented)** A pump according to claim 30,  
wherein the wall of the housing is directly adjacent to a face side of the  
blades.